



**Permanent Mission of the Independent State of Samoa
to the United Nations and other international organisations in Geneva**

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Eighth Conference of the States Parties (CSP8)

Samoa Statement

**To be delivered during General Debate session,
Monday 22nd August 2022, 3:00pm – 6:00pm**

Delivered by H.E. Toleafoa Nella Levy

Mr President,

On behalf of the Government of Samoa, I congratulate you on your presidency and for your leadership this past year. Through you, I acknowledge the work of the Secretariat in preparing for this the 8th Conference of the State Parties, especially at this time that we continue to navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic while upholding our obligations and commitments to international conventions.

We reaffirm our commitment in the work and implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty, including through the establishment of Samoa's first Permanent Mission in Geneva earlier this year and our presence here at CSP8 today. As a Small Island Developing State, we continue to face inherent challenges relating to limited capacities, isolation and global external shocks. Such constraints have detrimental impacts on Samoa and the Pacific region in countering the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons.

Samoa endeavours to overcome these challenges through partnerships and collaborations such as with the Centre of Armed Violence Reduction which we have completed the National Arms Transfer Database, and through the Voluntary Trust Fund of ATT, and ATT sponsorship programme. Samoa's Database allows for the quick and efficient extraction of information for monitoring arms flows, annual reporting, will contribute to improved inter-agency coordination including the verification of reported details, and linked to SDG 5 on gender equality, recognising the threat of small weapons on communities, especially women and children. But there remains further work to be done to customise the database in the context of Samoa and to ensure the transfer of knowledge and sustainability.

Mr President,

One of the key priority areas in Samoa's five-year Pathway for Development, focuses on 'Dynamic Global Relations and Partnerships.' In the spirit of shared responsibility, the security of Samoa also rests in the stability of our region as a whole. As such, we see value in having a sustained engagement of our Pacific region at ATT modalities, and the Conference of State Parties to build capacity, engage with likeminded partners and state members, learn from best practices and open dialogues, all of which enable us to strengthen the region collectively and reinforce the Boe Declaration on Regional Security. As large Ocean States of the Pacific, it is difficult for us to conduct in-depth surveillance on what is occurring at sea and within neighbouring waters and borders. Our region is very much susceptible to transnational crimes. For that reason, Samoa welcomes the capacity building programmes and technical assistance provided by ATT and donor countries in addressing these issues.

We intend to work with our Pacific members and key partners in ensuring that the rule of law, and regional security is maintained. We will continue to encourage our Pacific member states in signing and ratifying the Arms Trade Treaty. Samoa recognises the positive aspects of regional solidarity and collective security, to which ATT can play a role in strengthening the capacity of individual member states and for a region.

As 2030 approaches, we need to ensure that meeting the SDG 16 Goal on peace, justice and strong institutions is on track, that it can and will be achieved, and more importantly, that no one is left behind.

Thank you, Soifua.